

REMARKS


Claims 14-16, 18-25, 33, 36-40, 42 and 43 remain pending in this application. Claims 25, 33, 36-40, 42 and 43 have been allowed. Claims 14-16 and 18-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner rejected claims 14-16 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement, stating that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner asserts that the specification fails to provide support for a silicon carbide grain size of less than 20 microns and states that "[t]he absence of grains larger than 20 microns does not provide support for a grain size less than 20 microns." Applicants respectfully disagree.

In an interview with the Examiner on April 6, 2007, Applicants' undersigned representative directed the Examiner's attention to paragraph [0016] of Applicants' specification, as indicated in the Examiner's Interview Summary dated April 17, 2007. Paragraph [0016] of Applicants' specification states that "[p]referably, the matrix ceramic material of this composite has a fine grain crystalline structure of predominantly 20 microns or less in size to produce the desired wear characteristics which are hereinafter described." The Examiner agreed that this statement provides support for the limitation in claim 14 requiring "silicon carbide ha[ving] a grain size of less than about 20 microns." Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-16 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and allowance of the claims.

If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, he is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 222-8105 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,


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